

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

October 23, 1942

Reverend Robert Inglis
Miss Mary Coxhead
Plymouth Congregational Church
Oakland, California

Dear Reverend Inglis and Miss Coxhead:

Arrived here in Utah some weeks ago but days have busily slipped by with nary a letter written. Since the second day here, I have been busily engaged in work with the Youth Counseling Department of the Community Welfare Service--helping students to be relocated through the National Student Relocation Council or working hand in hand with the Employment Service to find jobs so our more ambitious youths can leave the camp.

Thank Mary for the letter which I received here. I am still looking for a girl to recommend to you for that St. Louis job.

We find the physical aspects of the Central Utah Project as good as can be expected in any camp of this nature. In fact, the Caucasian corps working on this Project tell us that when it is completed, it will be one of the best equipped of all of these camps. We have an unusually fine sanitary system (individual porcelain wash basins, adjustable showers, flush toilets, and even four small baths for each block accommodating 250 people).

We have been greatly encouraged by the fine caliber of men comprising our administrative staff. We have discovered them to be sincere people who begged to come here to work with us. Though the dust storms may blow and the climate freezing at night, a hope for the future is encouraged by the administration.

As can be expected, the morale at this particular time is not very high due mainly to the fact that living facilities were not completed before our arrival. Roofs, inner walls being incomplete, we are really having a difficult time with the dust and rain pouring through. Then again, our morale has not been helped by the double standard created by the W.R.A. for the administrative staff. While we are told there are not enough carpenters to put roofs in barracks where there are very small children and old people and invalids, cold and miserable we find carpenters finishing with all the trimmings the barracks of the staff. Moreover, our own people are paid \$16.00 a month (government pay) to clean their rooms, to wait on the tables, and to do

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their laundry. I can see to some extent the necessity for much of this and how much some of our administrators have given up bringing their family here to such a desolate miserable place where there is nothing in the way of usual comforts and recreation. But then again, my people asked not to be sent here and we are virtually prisoners here in the barren desert. I think I can take all this with a grain of salt looking to better things in the future--but many others are simply disappointed, discouraged, and riled up about all this and more. There are no barbed-wire fences as yet--they are to put them in later. Meanwhile, uniformed Army sentries walk back and forth keeping us in a square mile area. It all seems rather foolish to be irked by such differences, and yet to many who have nothing to think about and see all day but this--the mind becomes warped.

Those who are optimistic and idealistic in their views foresee a future for this group along productive and creative lines in agriculture and industry. These things will take time and until such times, we are being drafted into work chores for organizing our camp. Many have been leaving on sugar beet chores, turkey feathering, and general farm work in nearby farms. The sugar beet groups have gone to Idaho and all parts of Utah. These folks are out on temporary leave permits and apparently are quite free in the community they are working. One fellow who wrote back to us says that freedom is wonderful in spite of the fact that he is in a small town a ways up from Delta. These young inexperienced fellows are willing to suffer any kind of hard labor just to get away from here so you can imagine the confinement that most of them feel being couped up in a camp like this. Generally speaking, there is a finality and permanency about this place, this is most discouraging and depressing to many--and the majority have lost the enthusiasm they had at first. Winter is coming and there isn't much we can do to change the surrounding area.

Judging from the number coming here for information about student relocation and outside employment, one can safely say that the young people are not content to be fed by the government and stay put all winter. It certainly is indicative of a fine mental attitude of the youth in general.

We are all well and will do our utmost towards making this Project a success. I have plunged myself into my work for the time being, but I am ever mindful of those things you have suggested during my stay in Oakland and certainly feel that there is much work that has to be done in the outside--even more so than before.

I had the pleasure here of meeting again with Mr. Coverly, Assistant Regional Director of the W.R.A., now temporary Project Director of Manzanar, and also Mr. Myer, Director from Washington, D.C. They are still with much optimism, looking toward a solution of our problem in the future by planning, gradually, to release a major portion of those here to normal life on the outside. In order to do this, I do know how valuable some of the things you

folks were working upon and speaking of during this last summer is. I consider the work that the Congregational churches are doing as most valuable towards such a goal. I shall write a personal letter to you about things concerning myself later.

My real purpose in writing to you from this office is to beg for assistance in helping one youth, Seichi Adachi, who wishes to continue school. Seichi, who is 19, is from San Mateo and has gone to San Mateo Junior College for one semester. I shall attach his individual record and a copy of his history form from our files. The reason I have specially chosen to help Seichi is due to the fact that he is interested in going into the ministry and above all, is most worthy of assistance. He was previously connected with the Congregational church at San Mateo and has expressed his desire to enter a small Congregational church school. Seichi has a small amount of money which he has put aside for his schooling. This amount does not seem adequate for four years, but we do feel that he can at least take care of his personal and miscellaneous needs during his school years. I have interviewed and met with many students during these past weeks, and I am convinced that Seichi out of the many is as fine as they come.

I do not know of any colleges particularly sponsored by the Congregational group and perhaps it does not matter whether it is such, but I do feel that Seichi is deserving of assistance in order that he may further his educational goals. It is too late this semester to enter any college, but I do hope you can assist me in helping him to enter school next spring or perhaps next fall.

Could you suggest a school (preferably a small one--for I think he can do better in a small school at first) to which Seichi could go? And, too, I wonder if perhaps a tuition scholarship could not be found for him.

Please do not go to any undue trouble, but if you know of any such possibilities, kindly advise me.

Sincerely

Kay Yamashita

Kay Yamashita
Youth Counselor
Community Welfare Section